

Applicants' Docket No. 125478-1
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REMARKS

In the Office action mailed from the United States Patent and Trademark Office June 30, 2006, claims 1-57 were indicated as pending and were subject to a restriction requirement and election of species. The Examiner restricted the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 121 and required an election between claim groups I, II, and III, as follows:

Group I – Claim 1-19, drawn to a method for detecting an atherosclerotic plaque area of a subject, classified in class 600, subclass 410.

Group II – Claims 20-36, drawn to a method of assessing an effectiveness of a prescribed regimen for treating atherosclerosis, classified in class 424, subclass 9.322.

Group III – Claims 37-57, drawn to an MRI contrast-enhancing agent comprising poly(amino acid) conjugated with chelating moieties, classified in class 424, subclass 9.3.

Applicants hereby elect to prosecute claims 1-19 in Group I and withdraw claims 20-36 in Group II and claims 37-57 in Group III from further consideration in the subject application. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional patent applications directed to the non-elected subject matter.

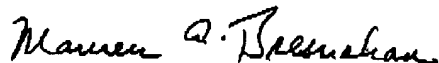
In addition to the above restriction requirement, the Examiner required an election of species of chelating moieties in claims 10, 27, and 38 and a species of poly(amino acid) in claims 19, 36, and 46. As the chelating moiety, Applicants elect diethylene triamine pentaacetic acid and as the species of poly(amino acid) Applicants elect poly-L-lysine.

Although Applicants do not believe that any extension of time or fee is required to have the present paper entered, Applicants hereby authorize the Commissioner of Patents to charge Applicants' Deposit Account No. 07-0868 for any required fee.

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If Examiner Ebrahim has any questions regarding the present patent application, they are invited to call Applicants' attorney, Maureen A. Bresnahan at 518-387-6304.

Respectfully submitted,



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